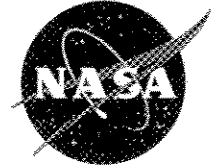


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



May 15, 2008

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at Phoenix Mars Lander Reception on June 4, 2008

On June 4, 2008, Lockheed Martin will host a reception at the Rayburn House Office Building to provide attendees an opportunity to see footage of the Phoenix Mars Lander mission, provide information about the mission and goals, and answer questions. Several NASA employees involved with the Phoenix Mars Lander mission will speak at the event. Launched in August 2007, the Phoenix Mars Mission is the first in NASA's Scout Program. Phoenix is designed to study the history of water and habitability potential in the Martian arctic's ice-rich soil. Invitees include members of Congress, Congressional staff, Executive Branch officials from agencies like NASA and National Science Foundation, and industry officials. Approximately 150 people will attend.

I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because they will have the opportunity to discuss the Phoenix Mars mission and celebrate its successful landing. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect Lockheed Martin may accept an invitation for free attendance to this event.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect Lockheed Martin, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from a NASA Headquarters ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone